



The Southwest Environmental Justice Initiative: What's Next?

By Kael Anderson

Last fall Georgetown University's Community Justice Project and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center launched an environmental justice project in Southwest. But with the end of the academic year, the founding students—Lauren Dollar, Kevin Larivee, Andrew Park, and Rohini Singh—are moving on. What happens next is up to the community.

Background

Georgetown's Community Justice Project is a clinic designed in part to train students lawyering skills and how to affect change within the legal system. Students use multiple tactics to achieve client objectives, including advocacy, public relations, the use of media, lobbying, legislative and policy drafting, and community organizing.

Through town hall meetings and other dialogues, the students and Southwest community members identified a number of serious environmental health concerns in our community. These concerns included poor indoor air quality due to the presence of toxins and inadequate ventilation at D.C. Housing Authority properties, and outdoor air pollution from industrial facilities like the D.C. Rock Plant and the DMV Inspection Station.

To determine the extent of air pollution, the Lombardi Center spearheaded soil testing inside and outside of housing properties. Meanwhile, the students researched applicable laws and policies, met with stakeholders and government officials, and developed a set of recommendations.

The resulting report, "Promoting Environmental Health in SW DC: Recommendations for Change," recommends a path for continuing the campaign against idling buses and offers ideas

for addressing the other environmental concerns named by the community. This comprehensive document is temporarily posted at: http://swdc.org/about_swna/mission_reports.htm

Tour Bus Idling Campaign

Project leaders decided to focus their greatest efforts on a tour bus idling campaign. This was partly a function of the multi-faced and diffuse geographic impact of tour buses. Near Southwest and Southeast communities are victim to walls of buses, increasing the risk of traffic collisions, taking up scarce parking and marring our aesthetic environment. Some buses have been redirected from popular congregating areas like Maine Avenue to East Potomac Park. While this moves the problem further from residential areas, it nonetheless pollutes the largest and most popular recreational destination in our community.

As reported in a petition developed by the

students, "diesel exhaust causes increased rates of cancer, and exacerbates asthma, especially in children." Although by law buses may not idle more than three minutes, that law is often violated. Several D.C. agencies have the authority to enforce the law, "but no agency has taken responsibility to ensure the law is enforced," the students concluded.

Accordingly, the petition recommends:

Enforcement: Monitor Buses and Cite Violations

-- The D.C. government must enforce the anti-idling law.

-- Responsible agencies must establish a clear delegation of responsibility for enforcement, a strategy to address idling complaints, and a detailed plan to monitor buses and cite violations of the law.

Reporting Program: Engage the Community

-- DDOE should work with Southwest com-

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Disappearing Act:

Affordable Housing Harder to Find

By Jessica Fulton

If you have tried to look for an apartment or buy a home in D.C., you know just how expensive a place it is to live, especially in recent years. Because the District did relatively well compared to other jurisdictions during the recession, businesses and new residents continue to flock to the area to take advantage of relatively strong job market and ever-expanding amenities in the metro area.

While the rising popularity of D.C. is a good sign of the District's economic progress, it also has contributed to a rapid rise in housing costs that is making it harder to find affordable places to live.

How high have housing costs risen? Since the start of the decade, rents for a one-bedroom apartment rose from \$735 a month in 2000 to \$1,100 a month by 2010. Rental prices increased even during the recession, when many District residents were struggling to make ends meet.

The rapid rise in housing costs has contributed to a vanishing supply of affordable housing in D.C. Since 2000, the supply of affordable rental units (those that cost less than \$750 a month) dropped by half, while the number of high-cost units (those costing over \$1,500 a month) more than tripled.

Home prices have also skyrocketed. Although prices dipped somewhat during the recession, the median home value nearly doubled over the last decade, from \$200,000 in 2000 to \$400,000 by 2010. As a result, low-cost

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A Renewed 'Spirit'



On May 1, Entertainment Cruises provided a preview of their renovated Spirit of Mount Vernon. This ship provides regular excursion cruises to George Washington's Estate & Gardens and is also available for special occasions like student group cruises and private charters. Built in 1989, the ship is 176 feet long with a capacity of 574 guests. The renovations represent an overhaul of the passenger areas. The Mount Vernon received new carpet, wall covering, restrooms, bars, dance floor, ceiling, and windows to allow for enhanced viewing.



Amidon-Bowen Library Hosts Thurgood Marshall Exhibit

By Meg Brinckman

On April 20, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Youth Activities Task Force and the Amidon-Bowen fourth grades hosted the dedication of a Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall Exhibit to be housed in the Amidon-Bowen Library.

Heather Evans, a fourth grader, was Mistress of Ceremonies. After welcoming remarks by Principal Izabela Miller, SWNA Youth Task Force Co-Chair Thelma Jones, read a congratulatory letter from Mrs. Thurgood "Cissy" Marshall to the group. Justice and Mrs. Marshall were residents of Southwest for many years.

Rick Bardach, Interim Chair of the SWNA Youth Activities Task Force, and Daryl Lucas,



Photo by Meg Brinckman

From the new exhibit: Thurgood Marshall reads to his son Thurgood, Jr. Reading was always an important activity in the Marshall household.

President of the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Staff African American Association, offered comments and congratulations.

Eric Gonzales, the NAACP Legal Defense Fund's Education Policy Advocate, wrote, "This exhibit is a timely reminder that despite notable progress, the vision of educational equality advanced by Justice Marshall's work is far from complete."

The program included a keynote address by Christine Ingram, Legal Fellow with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, who was introduced by fourth grader Eugene O'Carroll. Ms. Ingram helped the children understand the importance of the landmark case, *Brown v Board of Education* in 1954. Their classrooms would be

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Career Day at Amidon-Bowen Features a Wide Range of Jobs

By Meg Brinckman

On May 11, students from Pre-K to fifth grade at Amidon-Bowen Elementary School were introduced to a broad spectrum of the world of work. Representatives from the D.C. Metropolitan Police and Fire departments, Metrobus and Social Security Commission, along with a mental health counselor and author, drug counselor, hair stylist, chef and cowboy, visited classrooms and explained how they earn their livings.

Lester M. Austin, Senior Public Affairs Specialist at the Social Security Administration, explained that we all have something in common — a Social Security number. He asked students to make sure that theirs is in a safe place and reminded them that they are never to give it to someone they don't know.

Jevon Hargett, the Chef/Owner of Uptown



A firefighter donning gear at Amidon-Bowen's Career Day.

Occasions Caterings, spoke about careers in food service and the possibility of one day owning your own company.

Joy Jones, representing the Psychiatric Insti-

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'Mahalia' Returns to Westminster June 17

By Thelma Jones

Lavenia Nesmith will recreate the gospel singing of the world's most renowned gospel singer in "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson."

Nesmith, with creative contributions by Julian Hipkins, brings Mahalia to life in a musical drama in dialogue and song. Music is provided by Stephen Key on piano, Terron Whitehead on percussion, and Harry Jackson on bass.

"A Tribute" is the dramatized collaboration between Nesmith and scriptwriter BeBe Ross

Coker. This powerful and heart-warming performance embraces the listening audience and brings into presence such memorable songs of praise as "Bless This House," "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," "If I Can Help Somebody," "Precious Lord," and many other tunes.

The concert is at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, June 17, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, and is a benefit for the Westminster Church Building Fund. A reception will follow.

Tickets are \$25, and available by calling (202) 484-7700

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From The Southwester Staff

Initially, it looked like our June issue would be a relatively quiet one. How wrong that assumption was! You're holding the proof - this issue is packed with stories, from a world-record attempt (page 7) to important news on environmental justice and affordable housing (page 1), with a generous helping of community stories, arts and entertainment events, and sports news scattered throughout. It just goes to show that Southwest is hopping (as if we needed proof)!

We'd like to draw your attention to one item in particular. While *The Southwester* is self-funded through advertising revenue, its parent organization, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, relies largely on the generosity of community members to fund its operations. SWNA has put together a letter explaining the large number of programs it organizes (and funds) that benefit our neighborhood (see pages 9 & 10). All donations to SWNA are tax-deductible and are sincerely appreciated.

Of course, there are other ways you can help your community. SWNA's task forces, of which *The Southwester* is but one, rely completely on volunteers. If you'd like to get involved with community history, youth activities, technology, employment or scholarships, visit www.swdc.org or contact SWNA's president, Kael Anderson, at andkael@gmail.com to learn more.

For information on volunteering with *The Southwester*, just send an e-mail to editor@thesouthwester.com. And, as always, thanks for reading!



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We support *The Southwester* through our advertising.

By B. K. Lunde

Our Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting was very congenial this month, with at most one dissenting vote on each issue.

The D.C. Department of Transportation will be presenting its transportation study of M Street SW and SE from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, at the Capitol Skyline Hotel at 10 Eye St., SW. They are inviting community input.

The DC Zoning Commission will hear the request by the developers of the Wharf for approval of the planned unit development of Parcels 2, 3, 4 and 11. This includes parts of Water Street, Seventh and Ninth Streets SW and parts of the Waterfront. The hearing will be at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 28, at 441 Fourth St. NW. Future hearings for various parts of The

May 14 ANC 6D Meeting Report

Wharf project will be held on July 2, 12 and July 23. Written testimony should be submitted to the Zoning Commission at least 10 days before a hearing.

D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton's legislation to enable the Wharf has been delayed in Congress, but it is still expected to come up for a vote in the next few weeks.

Canal Park is under construction. It is three blocks long, running from M Street to L Street SE, between Second Street and Second Place SE. It will have several water features, including a year-round fountain and a skating rink in the winter. It will have a restaurant with a light box you can walk in. Images will be projected on

the box. This November is the targeted opening date.

The Commissioners voted to send a letter concerning the CSX Virginia Avenue railroad tunnel construction project. They would like to see the neighborhood be stronger, safer and quieter in the future than it is today.

Bob Craycraft will testify in the District Libraries, Parks, Recreation and Planning Committee hearing on the Maryland Avenue project at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 6, in room 412 of the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW. He requested and got the unanimous support of the Commissioners for his support of the project, including the removal of the part of the Department of Energy Building that obscures the view of the Smithsonian Castle from Banneker Circle.

Chris Damon was introduced as the new chairperson of the ANC 6D Alcoholic Beverage

Control Committee. The Commission voted to recommend renewal of the licenses of Harry's Reserve and Shulman Liquors.

Three races which will use the streets of Southwest were approved. All are on Saturdays. The Susan G. Koman Race for the Cure will occur on June 2. The Tour de Fat Community Bike Parade will be on June 16, and the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind will organize the Light The Way 5K on Sept. 29.

The Administrative Assistant for ANC 6D resigned, so his halftime administrative position is available. Contact the Chair at alitsky@aol.com to apply for the job. *[Editor's Note: For more information see the vacancy announcement at the bottom of page 11.]*

The next meeting of our Advisory Neighborhood Commission will be at 7 p.m. June 11. It will feature plans for The Wharf, the development along the Southwest waterfront. It will be in the second floor of 1100 Fourth Street SW, just north of Safeway. All are welcome.

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Photo by Cecille Chen

Spirit Awards

J Nickerson, General Manager of Gangplank Marina & President of the Washington Waterfront Association, holds the ball he threw for the ceremonial opening pitch April 19, when the Spirit Awards were presented at Nationals Park. With him is the Rev. Brian Hamilton of Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Kael Anderson, President of SWNA.

THE WHARF

PUD STAGE TWO - PHASE ONE

HEARINGS AND MEETINGS	DATE	TOPIC(S)
ANC-6D	6/11/2012	The Wharf PUD Stage 2-Phase 1
US Commission of Fine Arts	6/21/2012	The Wharf PUD Stage 2-Phase 1
Zoning Commission	6/28/2012	General Comments, Parcel 2, Co-Generation Plant, Parcel 1 Temp Uses, Transit Pier, Transportation
Zoning Commission	7/2/2012	Parcels 3A and 3B, District Pier and Mews
Zoning Commission	7/12/2012	Parcels 4A and 4B, Capital Yacht Club and Plaza, Mews, Jazz Alley, 7th Street Park
Zoning Commission	7/23/2012	Parcels 11A and 11B, Waterfront Park
Zoning Commission	Fall/2012	Parcel 5

All hearing and meeting documents on file at ANC-6D Office, Southwest Library and at www.wharfdc.com
For information, contact Elinor Bacon at 202-688-3584

Thank You...

The SW Heritage Project would like to acknowledge the gracious donation of Mr. Irving Gamza to the Titanic100 project. As well, we are very grateful for the assistance of Ron Lichter (Tiber Island Condominium) and Mark Whitaker (Tiber Island Cooperative Homes) in preparing the luminaries for the event.

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- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 7 | Farmers Market featuring Washington Jazz Ensemble |
| June 14 | Farmers Market featuring Bill Heid Blues Band |
| June 21 | Farmers Market featuring Arnold Sterling Jazz Ensemble |
| June 28 | Farmers Market featuring Daryl Davis Band |

FRIDAYS: Summer Sounds and Artist Market: 6-8:30pm

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 8 | Artist Market featuring Loyd Dobler Effect (Pop/Rock) |
| June 15 | Artist Market featuring Johnstone (Reggae) |
| June 22 | Artist Market featuring The Grandsons (Americana) |
| June 29 | Artist Market featuring Wil Gravatt Band (Country) |

Waterfront Workouts: 9-11am

SATURDAYS:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 9 | Yala Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am) |
| June 16 | Yala Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am) |
| June 23 | Yala Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am) |
| June 30 | Yala Fitness (9am) and Flow Yoga (10am) |

Special June activities include Table Tennis and Bean Baggo. Refreshments served by King Ribs Bar-B-Q with (Grillmaster Bufus) and Captain White’s Seafood Shack. 7th Street Landing is a FREE neighborhood WIFI hot spot. The Wharf Summer Celebration is managed by a partnership of Neighborhood Restaurant Group, Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Star Catering, Diverse Markets Management, Gravatt Entertainment, Cantina Marina and Jazz Night in Southwest—a project of Southwest Renaissance at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Wharf is a sustainable, large-scale waterfront development by Hoffman-Madison Waterfront - led by PN Hoffman and Madison Marquette, two accomplished mixed-use developers with national stature, unparalleled reputations and stellar financial results - as part of the District of Columbia’s Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. Hoffman-Madison Waterfront includes development partners with deep local roots, including ER Bacon Development, City Partners, Paramount Development and Triden Development. Groundbreaking is scheduled for 2013 and the first phase of The Wharf will open in 2016. When complete, The Wharf will feature approximately three million square feet of new residential, office, hotel, retail, cultural, and public uses including waterfront parks, promenades, piers, and docks. More information is online at www.wharfdc.com. General information is available at 202-688-3590.

Hoffman-Madison Waterfront Development Site Office 690 Water Street, SW Washington, DC 20024
The Wharf is within four blocks of the L’Enfant Plaza and Waterfront Station Metrorail stops.



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CAREER DAY

From p. 3

tute of Washington, talked about careers in mental health care and also introduced the children to the world of writing books. She talked about the way an author and an illustrator have to give each other the opportunity to do their jobs so that the collaboration can be successful.

Deborah Stewart is a social worker/drug counselor who works for the Department of Justice Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency. She also talked about the Federal Women's Program.

Willis Daniels, a Metrobus driver, said Metro's first priority is safety, and that every student has a part in making that happen. He went over basic safety rules and told them that being a good student now could lead to a rewarding career as a Metrobus driver when they are 21. He also talked about how Metro's hybrid, "green" buses save fuel and are good for the environment.

Always a favorite, the D.C. Metropolitan Fire Department from the Sixth Street SW Station, brought a shiny new fire truck. Sgt. Lee and Firefighters Artz, Pratt, Turner and Wilson showed the students the gear firefighters wear to every fire. They reminded students that if they are ever in a fire and see a person dressed in this gear coming toward them, they are not to be fright-

ened, but to know the firefighter is there to help. They also stressed the importance of listening, as firefighters have to listen carefully to radios and their supervisors to make sure everyone does his job and is safe.

L. E. Cureton of the Metropolitan Police Department showed students the many types of equipment police officers carry in their vehicles. They have to be ready to deal with the situations as diverse as an injured animal or a flat tire on their own vehicle as well as crimes.

Jamaal Neuman and Amber Ross from "Bar Ber & Stylist" showed the classes the "tools" of their trade and talked about the knowledge one has to have to correctly use the equipment and understand how to properly treat various kinds of hair.

Bruce "Bronco" Drummond, his wife, Rita, and son, Alex, provided insight into perhaps the most unusual career of the day. They operate "Coco's Corral" near Brandywine, MD, where children of all ages ride horses and gain understanding of the importance of the outdoors. They brought along a hand-tooled Mexican saddle. Alex and Bronco explained how each part of the saddle has a purpose for the rider. They were not able to bring Coco, the pony for which the Corral is named, but they did bring Angie, a white Cockatoo who charmed all with her beautiful plumage and her "Hello" to the group.

Calling All Trombonists: Help Set a World Record

By Sheila Wickowski

All trombone players out there are invited to join Ian Berlin and cast members for a rousing performance of *The Music Man's* signature song "76 Trombones" at Nationals Park at 6 p.m. Friday, June 1, prior to the Nationals game against the Atlanta Braves.

The event, sponsored by Arena Stage in partnership with FAME (Foundation for the Advancement of Music & Education) is an attempt to set the world record for the largest all-trombone ensemble ever by bringing together 500 trombone players.

Interested participants need to arrive at Nationals Park by 5:15 p.m. for the 6 p.m. performance. Participants must provide their own trombone and are expected to learn the music in advance. Participation is free, but advanced registration is required. Sheet music and detailed info will be provided upon registration.

Afterwards, participants may stay and watch the game (starting at 7:05 p.m.) for free. There will be a special ticket price for family and friends of participants starting at \$10. For more information or to register, visit www.fameorg.org.

Southwest Hosts Verdi's Otello

By David Ehrlich

Riverbend Opera Company is returning to Southwest Washington for the fourth year, this time presenting Verdi's masterpiece *Otello* at 7:30 p.m. June 12, at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church. In partnership with the Southwest Chamber Players concert series, this will be a free concert, with donations accepted.

Otello is arguably the most compelling and mature of Verdi's opera, beginning with an enormous storm as Othello lands in Cyprus after a huge military victory, and flowing without letup to the tragic end. Shakespeare's famous drama is captured faithfully by Verdi and librettist Arrigo Boito, overflowing in the opera with continual action and powerful human passion that captures our emotions with Verdi's exhilarating music. Riverbend brings an experienced cast of outstanding professional artists to this challenging work. Tenor Kevin Courtemanche, a member of the chorus with the New York Met and a veteran as the lead in dozens of operas throughout the United States, calls this the "Mount Everest of tenor roles." Courtemanche appeared last year in the title role of *Tales of Hoffmann* at St. Augustine's, and counts six Verdi tenor roles in his repertoire, including Radames (*Aida*) and Don Carlo.

Soprano Melissa Chávez ("Giulietta" in last year's *Hoffmann*) sings Desdemona, adding to her list of leading roles that includes Donna Elvira, Contessa (in *Le Nozze*), and Hanna (*Merry Widow*), among many others.

Baritone Bryan Jackson, a Washington favorite, sings the role of antagonist "Iago," planting the seeds of Othello's destruction with lies about Desdemona's betrayal of Othello in some of the opera's best known scenes. Jackson has appeared in roles including Jupiter in *Orpheus*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, Enrico (*Lucia*), and many others with Washington National Opera, The In Series, and Belcantanti, among other companies. Conductor Molly Khatcheressian has been Music Director and Chorus Master since the founding of Riverbend Opera Company in 2009, and has appeared in all of the Southwest D.C. concerts. In *Otello* she directs a full company of more than 60 talented singers, the largest Riverbend has assembled.

The opera will be presented semi-staged, with projected English surtitles. St. Augustine's Episcopal Church is at 600 M St. SW. The company website at www.RiverbendOpera.com has more information on the cast and the opera, other performances in the metro area, and contact information for Riverbend.

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Down the Gangplank

Dear Lord, Bless This Vessel and All Who Sail On Her...

By Karen Anderson, Gangplank
Slipholders Association

There are hazards unique to dockside living. Cell phones flying overboard. Walking into anchors. Piloting a heavy dock cart down a steep gangplank. Slipping on icy docks while filling up a tank with winter water. Bilges filling and circuits tripping. And that is just what can happen when tied up at the marina.

Out on the water there are different challenges. Sails rip. Anchors dislodge. You run aground. Coolers and dogs and guests — and occasionally an engine — fall overboard and are retrieved. Engines fail while coming in and it takes all your neighbors pitching in to safely dock. With the pleasure of living and working and running the river comes a certain exposure to the elements and chance that can leave us feeling vulnerable.

So it is entirely understandable that for many years, through the ritual known as the Blessing of the Fleet, the Potomac Fleet has looked to a higher power to help protect and guide its vessels, captains and crews. With flag-raising ceremonies and boat parades, fleet blessings mark the traditional opening of the boating season. Unlike the events held in traditional fishing ports from the Mediterranean to Massachusetts, we may not ask for help filling our nets but for support that keeps our unique boating community out of harm's way.

On May 19, Gangplank's own Port of Washington Yacht Club hosted the 37th Annual Blessing of the Fleet, with boats from up and down the Washington Channel, Anacostia and the Potomac. With help from three chaplains

— hailing from College Park (Rev. Fay Ludin), Highland Heights, Texas (Rev. Jack Mulligan) and the Southeast's Navy Yard (Capt. Gary Clore) — boats from more than six yacht clubs and many independent boaters lined the channel waiting their turn to receive a traditional or non-traditional blessing for their vessels and crews. The astonishing diversity of boats and boaters demonstrated the universal call to the sea felt by people everywhere.

The District's annual Fleet Blessing is part of a chain that stretches at least as far back as 1933, when the first annual Marine Parade was held on the Washington Channel with five yacht clubs and more than 200 boats participating. The Blessing of the Potomac Fleet has been held on the Washington Channel since 1979, a collaborative celebration among many groups who love our waterway.

This year's event may have been a little smaller than some of the the older parades but was no less enthusiastic. It remains one of the traditions that binds together the boating community and asks the support of those on land — and above — to help us navigate the shoals of difficult times and weather. Joining the Maine Lobsterman statue and the Titanic Memorial, the Blessing of the Potomac Fleet is a reminder of the maritime heritage that is unique to South-west Washington and a testament to the very special people who are called to spend time upon and at the waterfront.

God bless your going out and coming in....

For more information about this year's Blessing of the Fleet, visit <http://www.powyc.org/blessingofthefleet.htm>

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NATS NOTES

From p. 12

If Espinosa can get back to consistent hitting like he did for the first half of 2011, he becomes a huge asset to our offense.

In the movie, "A League of Their Own," Dottie, played by Geena Davis, tells her younger

sister, Kit, to lay off the high fast ball. "Can't hit 'em, can't lay off 'em either." That has sometimes described a talented but streaky Rick Ankiel. Just like Espinosa, Ankiel is a defensive asset with a cannon arm. Both contribute frequently to the Nats with run-saving highlight-replay gems. But their value to the team multiplies geometrically when they produce offensively, as well.

The Nationals could continue to maintain a top-of-the-standings position just on the best pitching in the game. But if Warren Buffett were looking at our mediocre early-season offensive production, and the great upside potential, it seems to me he would judge this is a buy-low opportunity. If I am right, watch out.

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JUSTICE

From p. 1

munity members to establish a reporting program through which community members can report idling buses.

— DDOE must record all reports and enforce the anti-idling law.

Seek Long-Term Solutions

— D.C. government must develop sustainable, long-term solutions, which might include: a location where bus drivers may park and access temperature-controlled facilities with restrooms, refreshments and power outlets, or a requirement that all tour buses in D.C. be electric, hybrid or equipped with automatic idling limiters.

The student's report details the efforts on this campaign, including a meeting with DDOE convened by ANC Commissioner Rhonda Ham-

DISAPPEARING

From p. 1

D.C. homes — the kind that might be bought by a first-time homebuyer or moderate-income family — have nearly disappeared. The number of homes worth less than \$250,000 has fallen by more than 70 percent over the last decade.

With a significant loss in affordable housing stock, and housing costs that are rising much faster than incomes, the District is struggling to retain affordable housing that would allow all residents to survive in the city. The private market produces little affordable housing on its own, so it is critical that the District invests in the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

The D.C. Council recently took an important step and began to reinvest in programs that help to increase the supply of affordable housing in D.C. The Council used the 2013 budget to allocate nearly \$25 million in additional funds to help build and preserve affordable housing, move homeless families out of shelters and into stable housing to help them get back on their feet, and to fund a program that helps low-income families purchase their first home.

Affordable housing is an integral piece to economic development in the District of Columbia. A thriving economy rests on diversity of residents. By investing in affordable housing, the District helps to diversify its economy and helps to ensure that the District is a place where residents across the economic spectrum can live.

EXHIBIT

From p. 1

very different from today, both in who could go to school, and the education they would receive.

Taije Chambliss and Heather Evans read the Langston Hughes poems, “Words Like Freedom” and “I Dream of a World.” Jessica Zeiler, Amidon-Bowen ES Librarian, summed up the importance of today's youth understanding the role Southwest residents has had in the shaping of our history.

Joy Austin, Executive Director of the Washington Humanities Council, and the Southwest Library, provided support. LaTonya Sellers, Assistant Secretary, World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund Staff African American Association made invaluable contributions to the program. Special thanks go to Thelma Jones, Program Director and Vice Chair, SWNA YATE, who has spearheaded the efforts to keep the contributions of Thurgood Marshall before the residents of Southwest and the city at large. A reception prepared by World Bank Staff followed.

The exhibit will remain on permanent display in the Amidon-Bowen Library. Members of the public may visit during normal school hours after signing in at the school entrance.

ilton. At the meeting, DDOE empathized with the idling concerns and indicated they'd support a community advocacy campaign directed at bus companies.

Among the easiest ways for Southwesters to get involved is to hand out letters reminding drivers about the impact of idling.

In an effort to kick-start the campaign, ANC 6D and the Assembly are working on a joint resolution to requesting that government officials and agencies properly address the problem.

Moving Forward

The Georgetown University law students have put the community in an excellent position. Moreover, the recently-announced relocation of the Lombardi Center from upper Northwest D.C. to our Navy Yard community provides a convenient platform reach resolution on long-standing environmental justice issues.

At its May board meeting, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly expressed a willingness to spearhead future environmental justice efforts, particularly the bus idling campaign. But success will require more dedication and the involvement of the whole community. If you have interest in getting involved, contact me at andkael@gmail.com or your ANC representative.

Arena Presents Award-Winning ‘Normal Heart’

By Sheila Wickouski

Arena Stage's production of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, opening June 8, is another example of Arena's excellence at taking unflinching looks at the violence to the human spirit that human beings are capable of inflicting on one another. Personal, political and medical worlds collide as the New York gay community encounter the ravages of a mysterious disease, now known as AIDS.

Arena Stage recently received Helen Hayes awards for 2012 for Outstanding Resident Play: *Ruined* and for Outstanding Non-Resident Production: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Both plays — one set in a war-torn African country and the other in a war-torn marriage in a New England college — are this type of searing drama.

The Normal Heart, a largely autobiographical work, first produced in the 1980s, has received critical acclaim as well as Tony/Desk Drama/Outer Circle Critics Awards for its 2011 Broadway revival.

Knowing Arena's record, this is a sure bet for a powerful night of theater.

Want To Go?

WHAT: The Normal Heart
WHERE: Kreeger Theatre at Arena Stage
WHEN: June 8 to July 29
Southwest Night for *The Normal Heart* is Tuesday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m

Plus....

- July 23: Special benefit performance in conjunction with the International AIDS conference. Sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed in lobby
- June 20 & July 11: Arena Stage Piano Bar will feature showtunes in the lobby.
- Local clinics will offer free HIV testing on select weekends of the performance.
- Engage@Arena Stage panel discussions will occur after some matinee performances.



SOUTHWEST NEIGHBORHOOD ASSEMBLY
1101 Fourth Street, SW, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20024
Telephone: (202) 580-8188 Web site: www.swdc.org

May 21, 2012

Dear Southwest Neighbor:

Have you ever wondered how you can make a difference in building a better Southwest community?

I'd like to share with you the story of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), our nonprofit civic organization. SWNA was formed for the purpose(s) of: improving the quality of life for all residents; opening to every resident the wide cultural horizon of urban living; helping to create rich and equal social, educational, and economic opportunities for residents of Southwest; assisting in providing the opportunity for gainful employment for all; promoting development of the economic and aesthetic potential of Southwest, and preserving its diverse history.

Founded in 1963, SWNA has been serving the near Southwest community for over four decades and was one of the first integrated civic organizations in the city. During the past few decades, SWNA has helped to represent community residents during periods of urban renewal and development, helping to ensure that current residents are not forgotten in the process. We have worked with several other local groups to inform and educate the neighborhood.

SWNA has established various task forces to address issues common to near Southwest and the parts of Southeast covered by the ANC 6D.

- **History Task Force**
The History Task force documents and promotes our rich heritage--from famous residents like Thurgood Marshall to our nationally-noted modernist built structures.
- **Youth Activities Task Force**
The Youth Activities Task Force enriches and adds to the developmental experiences of neighborhood youth through programs like Safe Sitter, computer classes, and cultural and educational trips as well as support for team sports.
- **Scholarship Task Force**
The Scholarship Task Force has helped over 260 neighborhood students pursue college degrees over the past 35 years, generally assisting six or seven students each year with financial assistance.
- **Technology Task Force**
The Technology Task Force maintains the SWNA web site www.swdc.org and also collects and refurbishes donated computers to make available to needy families.
- **Emergency Preparedness Task Force**
The Emergency Preparedness Task Force's mission is to create and train a “SW Neighborhood Corps” to serve Southwest in preparation, response and recovery in the event of a disaster.

JUNE

WED 6, 7 P.M. Mediation for Stress Reduction, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

7 P.M. CHILDREN’S Room Program Pajama Story Time, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

THURS 7, 8 A.M.-9:30 A.M. Councilman Tommy Wells office hours, Channel Inn café, 7th & Water Streets SW

SUN 10, 11 A.M.-4 P.M. Family Day at Fairgrounds, Half and M Street across from Navy Yard Metro. Free

MON. 11, 7 P.M.-10 P.M. ANC6D monthly public meeting, 1100 4th St. SW, DCRA meeting room on 2nd floor

TUES 12, 10 A.M. Amidon-Bowen 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony, School Cafeteria

10 A.M. Jefferson 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony, Eastern High School, 1700 East Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC 20003, phone 202-698-4500

WED 13, 7 P.M. Children’s Room Program Pajama Story Time, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

MON 18, 3 P.M. Make Your Own Dream Journal, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

WED 20, 7 P.M. Children’s Room Program Pajama Story Time, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.
June 20th only: Teddy Bear Sleepover, being your favorite teddy bear and leave overnight to enjoy company of other bears.

SUN 24, 11 A.M.-4 P.M. Family Day at Fairgrounds,Half and M Street across from Navy Yard Metro. Free

MON 25, 7 PM SWNA Monthly Meeting, St. Augustine’s , Church, 600 M Street SW

WED 27, 7 P.M. Children’s Room Program Pajama Story Time, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

THURS 28, 10:30 A.M. Sou nds of Hope featuring singer songwriter Mary Shapiro, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W.

SAT 30, 1 P.M. Kitchen Table Book Discussion, SW Library, 900 Wesly Pl. S.W. Copies of April title ‘Parables of the Sower’ by Octavia Butler are available at the library.

WEEKLY, BIWEEKLY

AARP-SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT CHAPTER 4751, Third Wednesday of each month, except June, July and August, River Park Mutual Homes community room, 1311 Delaware Ave., SW. For further information, contact Chapter President Evelyn Dorsey, Dorseydear@aol.com or 202-488-9685.

BLUES MONDAYS, 6 P.M.- 9 P.M., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, Various Blues musicians and singers featured each Monday. \$5. Food for sale.

COMPUTER CLASSES, SW Library, 900 Wesley Pl. SW, Thursday 10 a.m.-12 noon, 202-724-4752
THURS. 7 DC Public Library Website
THURS. 14 Email Basics
THURS. 21 No Classes; Will resume in July
THURS. 28 No Classes this week

FREE SAT AND GENERAL SUBJECT TUTORING, every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW. HandsOn Greater DC Cares , Adam Castle 202-777-4448

HAND DANCING CLASSES, Jitterbug, Lindy Hop, Saturdays, 12 p.m.-2 p.m. Classes by Markus Smith of Swing Anatomy Dance. \$10/class for adults, \$5/class for children 8-17. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW, Community room off Wesley Place, SW.

JAZZ NIGHT IN SW, Fridays, 6 p.m.-9 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, Various Jazz musicians and singers featured each Friday. \$5. Food for sale.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF SOUTHWEST WATERFRONT, Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW, every first and third Monday from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

WELLNESS WEDNESDAYS, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW, 4 p.m. Seated Yoga and Healing Sessions (Pamela Wilson and Riva Wine). 5 p.m. Tai Chi (Manifest Ra). 5:30 p.m. Laughter Yoga (Claire Trivedi). 6:45 p.m. Sampoorna Yoga (Alex Rosen). 7 p.m. Narcotics Anonymous SW Free-Way Meeting

WEDNESDAY EVENING CHESS, 6:30pm-8:30pm, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW

POLICE SERVICE AREA 105, Community meeting, every Third Thursdays, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., Location announced at previous meeting

POLICE SERVICE AREA 106, Community meeting , every Fourth Saturday, 10 a.m.-11 a.m., PSA Community room, 900 5th Street S.E.

PRE SCHOOL STORYTIME, Tuesdays and Thursdays, SW Library, 900 Wesley Place SW, 10:30 a.m.

SOUTHWEST LIBRARY, 900 Wesley Place SW (off I (Eye) Str. Between 3rd & 4th. Chapter Book Read Aloud, Bi Weekly on Tuesdays & Thursdays . at 1:00pm. Beginning Tues June 12th, Ending -Thurs. June 28th,1:00pm.

SOUTHWEST RENEWAL AA, Alcoholics Anonymous group, Mondays, 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. St. Augustine’s Church, 600 M Street SW, (202) 554-3222

SOUTHWEST SEWING GROUP, Mondays, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., St. Augustine’s Church, 600 M Street SW, Contact Mary Henderson at (301) 336-9058. Open to all interested in working on their own sewing projects and/or machine sewing skills. Mondays, except June, July and August.

SW FREEWAY, NA, Narcotics Anonymous group, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.-8 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street SW

WASHINGTON STAMP COLLECTOR’S CLUB, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. First and Third Wednesday each month. Buy, trade and sell stamps Refreshments, auctions and programs. Christ United Methodist Church, 900 Fourth Street SW, 202-291-6229

YOGA CLASS, 12 p.m.-1 p.m., Tuesdays, St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 600 M Street SW, \$10 per class with Kelly Anne. Contact: kellymelsted@gmail.com

ZUMBA GOLD, 11 a.m.-noon. Fridays, Low-impact exercise/dance class for seniors, at King Greenleaf Recreation Center, 201 N Street SW.

Please submit calendar items by the 13th day of the preceding month to calendar@thesouthwester.com.

Southwest Neighborhood Assembly - 2

- Southwest Retail Task Force**
The Southwest Retail Task Force is charged with promoting the development of retail businesses in Southwest DC, especially along Fourth Street, the Southwest Waterfront and L’Enfant Plaza.
- The Southwester Newspaper**
The Southwester publishes monthly and is written, edited, and distributed by local volunteers. *The Southwester* recounts community events from the past month and brings news of events to come. Look for it in your apartment building, in our distribution boxes, or online at www.swdc.org.

Today we have a tremendous opportunity to further expand our program and help to improve the quality of life of all Southwest residents for the better. We are asking for your support. To carry forward our ambitious projects to make our community a better place, we request you to help us financially. Any amount of monetary donations is welcome and we will be highly honored and obliged for the support you have offered.

We are counting on your support. We do hope that you will respond positively to our request. Remember that your contribution is tax-deductible!

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Sincerely,



Kael Anderson
President
E-mail: andkael@gmail.com

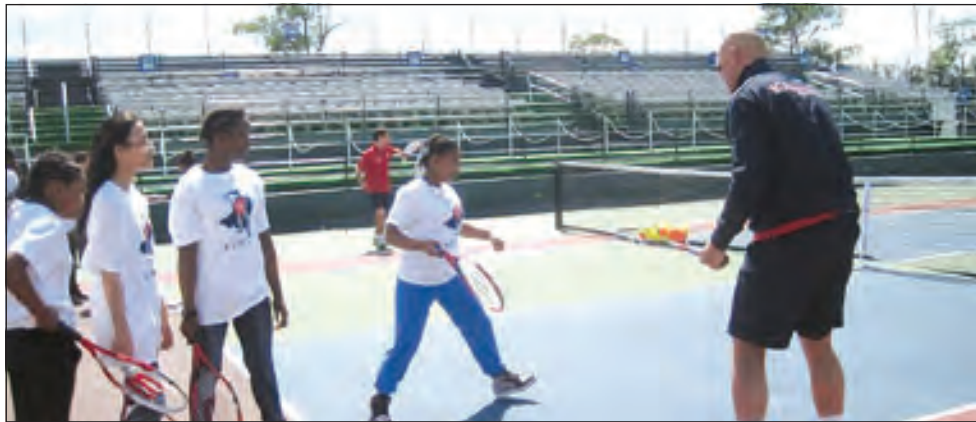
<p>Please detach along the dotted line. Make your donation payable to SWNA and mail to: SWNA P.O. Box 70131 Washington, DC 20024</p> <p>THANK YOU!</p> <p><i>SWNA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations, and your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law.</i></p>	<p>By giving to SWNA I know that together we can make a difference in building a better Southwest community.</p> <p>\$25____ \$50 ____ \$75 ____ \$100 ____ Other \$ ____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>E-mail: _____</p>
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Kastles Host Clinic; Season Starts July 12

By Joshua Rey

On May 10, Washington Kastles Coach Murphy Jensen led a tennis clinic at Kastles Stadium at The Wharf for 15 students from nearby Jefferson Academy. Each of the students received their very own tennis racquet to keep, as well as a Kastles T-shirt.

Despite heavy winds, the children looked right at home hitting tennis balls on the same court as Serena and Venus Williams of the reigning World TeamTennis champion Kastles. After honing their forehands and backhands with Coach Jensen, the kids returned to school and several immediately resumed playing on Jefferson Academy's tennis courts.



The Washington Kastles return to the Southwest Waterfront July 12-24 following their historic 16-0 season in 2011, when they captured their second WTT title in three years. Individual match tickets to see Serena

on July 22, Venus on July 24 and the rest of the Kastles all season long are on sale now at Ticketmaster.com. Season tickets start at \$150 and can be purchased by calling 202-4-TENNIS (483-6647).

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A Winning Season for King-Greenleaf Baseball Team

By Ronald Hines



Photo by Rick Bryson

The King-Greenleaf Team: (top row, left to right) Charles Kibler, Eric Woodard, Wesley Davis, Anthony Gross, Blake Bryson, Nicholas Hinton, Amedeo Hines, (bottom row, left to right) Kayle Foster, Trevor Hilson, Prince Wright, Adrian Sutton.

The King-Greenleaf Freshman Team (Ruth's Baseball Ideals League) is 8 and 4 in one of the Top Wooden Bat leagues in the area and the players are being exposed to the best teams in the area. The Team is traveling to different parts of DC/MD/VA and are conducting themselves in a professional manner and representing this fine city in a positive way. There are only two all-black teams in this league, and they are having a great time.

ANC 6D Seeks Administrative Assistant

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6D (www.anc6d.org), representing the neighborhoods of Southwest and Near SE, seeks applications for an Administrative Assistant position. The Administrative Assistant is responsible for all ANC office functions and operations of the Commission, including maintaining the Commission's records and correspondence and its online presence. S/he also acts as a liaison on behalf of the Commission with officials and agencies of the District government, representatives of local community organizations and assists the Commissioners with their duties as requested under the supervision of the ANC Chairman.

The Administrative Assistant provides information and assistance to 6D residents regarding services available from the District Government and within the 6D Commission area. The Administrative Assistant is a part time position of approximately 80 hours per month.

A highly qualified candidate will possess a college degree and experience with community organizations; DC government experience will be especially valuable. Residents of Southwest & Near SE residents shall be accorded preference points.

To apply for the Administrative Assistant position, please send a resume and cover letter electronically to ANC6D Chairman Andy Litsky at andy6d04@anc6d.org. The Commission will begin reviewing applications on June 4, 2012.

Allen A. Flood, M.D.

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Neighbors 'Look Out for Each Other' in Southwest

By Lisa Edmunds

When Marian Wagener moved to Southwest D.C. in 2000, she could not have foreseen the new developments her neighborhood would eventually undergo. Twelve short years later, the area is bustling with the addition of Nationals Park and the myriad of businesses that have relocated to this up-and-coming section of the District.

"I have lived in several places, but I'd have to say my neighbors in Southwest have been the best so far," Wagener said. "We look out for each other, which is great."

As an usher in the Lexus Presidents Club at Nationals Park, Marian Wagener makes every effort to share her passion and enthusiasm for the neighborhood with the many visitors at the ballpark. In fact, it is her enthusiasm for the community that brought this St. Louis native to her current position with the Nationals.

"I came [to Washington] for work," Wagener said. "Then when I retired, I hadn't seen everything, so I stayed."

As a phone company employee, Wagener moved from one city to another for several years, but ultimately found a home in Southwest D.C. Following her retirement, she began working as a tour guide at the U.S. Capitol during the day and as an usher at Nationals Park on summer nights. It's on her nightly walks home from the ballpark



Marian Wagener at Nationals Park.

that Wagener can sense the difference in the energy around the neighborhood, especially when the team wins.

"It's exciting and fun," she said. "The people along the way always talk to you and there are always people along the way. There is plenty of foot traffic in the evening, which is great for our neighborhood."

Wagener also notes the strong sense of D.C. pride the residents exhibit with the recent resurgence of activity in the neighborhood.

"Neighbors want to stop and ask questions," she said. "They want to know who the Nationals are playing. It's fun and makes it kind of a team effort."

Notes on the Nats Building a Championship

By Zev Feder

Forget the "Early-season success is short-lived" skepticism. Ignore the injury list already mounting to key players like Mike Morse, Drew Storen, Ryan Zimmerman, Jason Werth, Chien-Ming Wang, Wilson Ramos and Brad Lidge. Don't fret the few losing streaks that have accompanied many strings of exciting wins. The Nationals have a contending team and they are constructing an even better one.

First, their solid season start is based entirely on pitching. Their starting pitching rotation is formidable. Steven Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez and Jordan Zimmerman are all good enough to lead a good rotation. Ross Detwiler has performed equally as well as the first three, and Edwin Jackson has trailed the group only during occasional lapses. If one starter among five is occasionally average, you have a stellar rotation.

The bullpen staff has yet to grow into league-best status. It will. Closer Drew Storen has yet to pitch this season, but he is on track to return. Tyler Clippard started off the year less effective than the 2011 All-Star version but that is now resolving. And Henry (Wild Thing) Rodriguez, although still at times erratic, is growing in confidence and is unbelievably tough to hit when he is at his best. Add the talent those three possess to the consistent excellence we have to this point relied on from Craig Stammen, Sean Burnett and Ryan Mattheus and you have plenty of high-level end-of-gamers.

But the early-season weakness in our batting lineup is the best news of all and why my expectations are so high.

We won a lot of games this spring with a

Murderers' Row of one: Adam LaRoche. That's it. Ryan Zimmerman out a month, following a start that almost every at-bat was a hard out driven right at one fielder or another, anyway. Michael (Beast) Morse out entirely. And Bryce Harper still in diapers until the end of April. Pencil sluggers like these into the middle of the lineup, give Bryce Harper a little time to settle in, and you have a hitting machine.

We won a lot of games this spring with most of the rest of the lineup also performing well below their potential. Danny Espinosa struggling. Left-field platooners Roger Bernadina and Xavier Nady producing infrequently. Somewhat more production coming from Ian Desmond, Steve Lombardozi, Rick Ankiel and Wilson Ramos, but only enough to win because our pitching made do with little.

Davey Johnson is working on that. In a post-game interview following Roger Bernadina's second home-run, he said Roger had shortened his swing into a concise, hard but focused swing, instead of the old looping home run swing, and home runs will come by themselves. Charley Lau, in "The Art of Hitting .300," teaches most hitters to not routinely attempt to pull home runs because the season results are better for player and team when you use a concise swing such as Davey Johnson described and hit line drives to all fields. (See my "Geometry of Hitting" column in the Southwester July 2011 issue.)

Davey's lesson for Roger Bernadina will hopefully apply to Danny Espinosa as well, whose swing has mirrored Bernadina's in length.

Continued on Page 8

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